Workplace Fatalities



8/4/98 Crushed

At 2:15 p.m. a victim was apparently spreading crushed rock in a 7 feet deep by 53 inches wide trench.

The victim was working 20 feet outside of the trench box. The near vertical east wall of the trench failed, and covered the victim with soil. The weight of the soil crushed the victim.

Questions to ask?

- Do you have trench rescue procedures including emergency rescue equipment and a plan to assure the safety of anyone involved in rescue?
- Has safe egress from excavations been assured by ladders or other means?
- Are your work procedures set up to encourage workers to stay inside the trench box?